# CATALOG of PRIVATE EXPRESS COVERS, LABELS and STAMPS

UNITED STATES
1839 – 1918

CANADA
1841 – 1926

MEXICO
1860 – 1918

**BRUCE H. MOSHER**

Second Edition
2018

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RIVX-L10 (Page 210)




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THMX-L2 (Page 226)



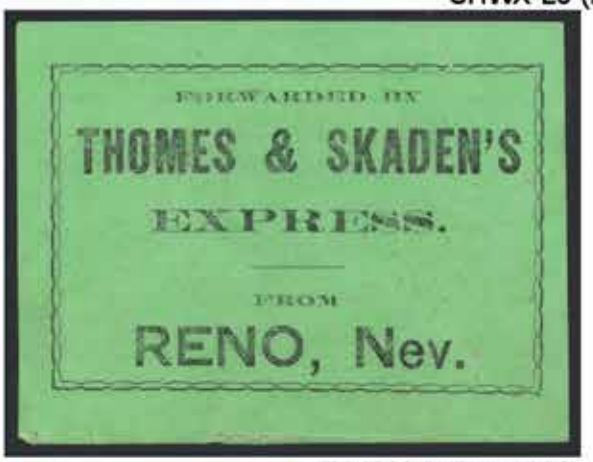

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## LATHROP & HOWE'S EXPRESS (Unkn.)

Regional parcel express company that operated between Boston, Auburndale and West Newton, Mass.

### LABEL



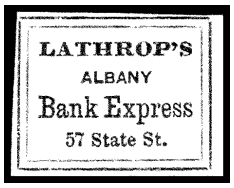

| Year Unkn. | Imperf. | 69x50 mm |
|---|---|---|
| L&HX-L1 | Black/*Aqua* | 25.00 |

<>

## LATHROP'S ALBANY BANK EXPRESS (Bogus?)

A presumed bogus label created by S. Allen Taylor. Augustus B. Lathrop did conduct a Bank Express in Albany between 1863 and 1877 (maybe longer), but no express labels that were used in his business have been reported.

### BOGUS? LABELS




| Bogus? | | Imperf. | 43?x32? mm |
|---|---|---|---|
| LABX-L1 | | Black/*Buff* | 25.00 |
| | a. | Black/*Flesh* | 25.00 |
| | b. | Black/*Green** | 25.00 |
| | c. | Black/*Magenta* | 25.00 |
| | d. | Black/*Pinkish-orange* | 25.00 |
| | e. | Black/*Red* | 25.00 |
| | f. | Black/*Red Orange** | 25.00 |
| | g. | Black/*Tan* | 25.00 |
| | †h. | Black/*White** | 25.00 |
| | †i. | Black/*Brown* | 25.00 |
| | †j. | Black/*Peach* | 25.00 |

**†NOTE**

*These three labels are cited in Reference 1 with this explanation: "This is for delivery of money parcels only, in the cities of Albany, Troy, Utica, &c., &c., the value is 25c." However, George B. Sloane, Elliott Perry and Sherwood Springer classify these labels as Taylor fantasies.

Ref. 1: Taylor, S. A., "New Locals and Others," Lathrop's Albany Bank Express, *The Stamp Collector's Record,* No. 4, April 3, 1865.

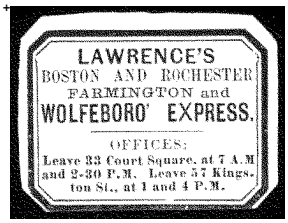
Ref. 2: Lyons, L, "Lathrop's Albany Bank Express," *The Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States,* Vol. II, 1998, p. 749.

<>

## †LAWRENCE'S EXPRESS (1875B–76B)

Regional private mail(?) and parcel(?) express company that operated between Boston, Mass., and Farmington, Rochester and Wolfeboro', New Hampshire.

### LABEL



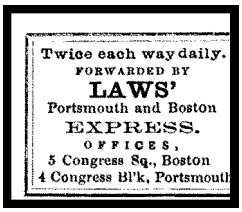

| Year Unkn. | Imperf. | 32x24 mm |
|---|---|---|
| †LARX-L1 | Black/*Light Orange* | 35.00 |

<>

## LAWS' EXPRESS (1840B–71B)

Regional private mail express company that operated between Boston and Portsmouth, Mass.

### LABELS

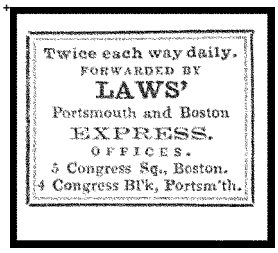



Depicted label is truncated at right. "Portsmouth" is printed at LR.

| ca. 1864 | Imperf. | 28x22 mm |
|---|---|---|
| LAWX-L1 | Black/*Green* | *20.00 |

[Known used on cover with November 1864 enclosure; on July 1865 letter]

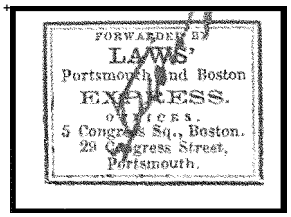
* Complete label.




"Portsm'th" is printed at LR.

| ca. 1864? | Imperf. | 28x23 mm |
|---|---|---|
| †LAWX-L2 | Black/*Green* | 20.00 |

[Known used on November 1864 annotated cover]




Clear illustration is not available.

| ca. 1861? | Imperf. | 29x22 mm |
|---|---|---|
| †LAWX-L5 | Black/*Orange* | 20.00 |

[Known used on January 1861 annotated cover]

<>

## LEONARD EXPRESS (1840B–72B)

Regional private mail express company that operated between Boston, Aston and West Newton, Mass. Also known as **Leonard & Co.**

### LABELS




| Year Unkn. | Imperf. | 33x21 mm |
|---|---|---|
| LENX-L5 | Black/*Lavender* | 25.00 |




Known with other town names.

| Year Unkn. | Imperf. | 46.5x46.5 mm |
|---|---|---|
| LENX-L10 | Black/*Violet* | 25.00 |




Probably issued with other town names.

| Year Unkn. | Imperf. | 47x47 mm |
|---|---|---|
| †LENX-L12 | ◊Black/*Violet* | 25.00 |

<>

## †LEVY BROTHERS EXPRESS (Late 1880sR1)

Regional private mail and parcel express company that operated in San Mateo County, Calif., via stage coaches managed by the Levy Brothers' Stageline.

### LABEL




| ca. 1888 | Imperf. | 54x37 mm |
|---|---|---|
| †LVBX-L1 | Black/*Orange* | 150.00 |

—— O ——

## OVERLAND MAIL & EXPRESS CO. (ca. 1875–88[U])

Regional private mail, parcel express and stage line company that operated in Colorado. Barlow & Sanderson Co., or J. L. Sanderson & Co., was the proprietor.

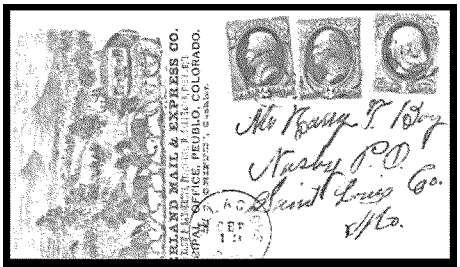
### CORNER CARDS & COVERS




"**PEUBLO**" is an incorrect spelling. Depicted corner card is rotated 90° CCW as printed on cover.

| ca. 1888 | Printed | Size Unkn. |
|---|---|---|
| OVMX-CC1 | Black | Unkn. |

[Known on cover containing 1888 letter]




INCOMPLETE IMAGE

| ca. 1888 | | (Thomas OVM-402) |
|---|---|---|
| OVMX-C1 | White envelope | *1,000.00 |

* Entire legible cover.

***




Image constructed from Thomas OVM-401 description. Missing text: "**J. L. SANDERSON & CO. Propts., H. SANDERSON, Gen'l Sup't, H.C. Griffin, Cashier.**" Depicted corner card might be rotated 90° CCW as printed on cover.

| ca. 1888 | Printed | Size Unkn. |
|---|---|---|
| OVMX-CC2 | Black | Unkn. |

[Known on September 1888 postmarked cover]

**Cover illustration is not available.**

| ca. 1888 | | (Thomas OVM-401) |
|---|---|---|
| OVMX-C2 | White envelope | *1,000.00 |

* Entire legible cover.

Ref. 1: Thomas, Oscar M., "Barlow, Sanderson, & CO., etc.," *The Western Express Companies, etc.*, Volume 1, The United Postal Stationary Society, Inc., 2013, pp 161-64.

<>

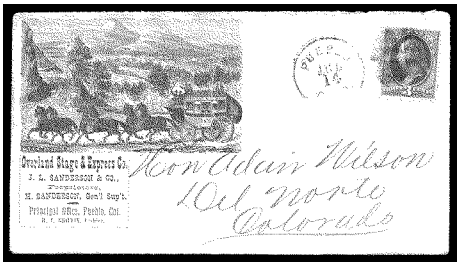
## OVERLAND STAGE & EXPRESS CO. (1878–80's)

Regional private mail, parcel express and stage line company that operated between the Missouri River and the Pacific Coast. J. L. Sanderson & Co., was the proprietor.

### CORNER CARDS & COVERS

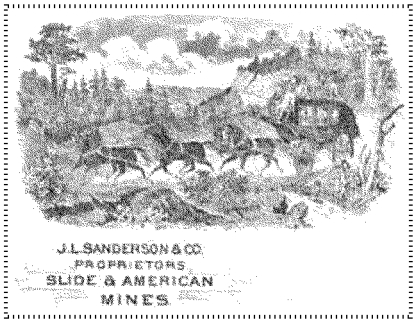



| Year Unkn. | Printed | Size Unkn. |
|---|---|---|
| OSTX-CC1 | Black | Unkn. |




| Year Unkn. | | |
|---|---|---|
| OSTX-C1 | White envelope | 600.00 |

***

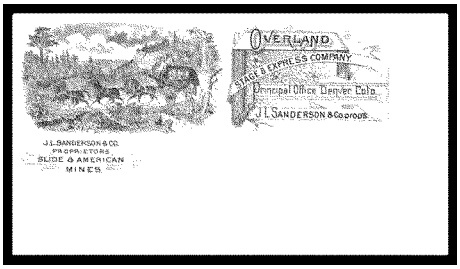



"Slide and American Mines" were located in Cripple Creek, Colo., according to the 1896 *Colorado Mining Index*.

| Year Unkn. | Printed | Size Unkn. |
|---|---|---|
| OSTX-CC2 | Black | Unkn. |




| Year Unkn. | Printed | Size Unkn. |
|---|---|---|
| OSTX-CI-2 | Black | Unkn. |




Depicted cover is unused. Used cover is known.

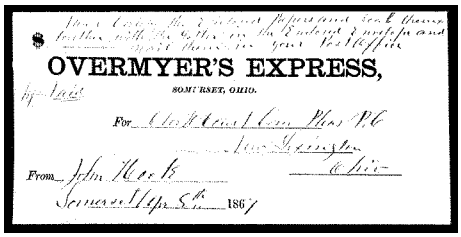
| Year Unkn. | | |
|---|---|---|
| OSTX-C2 | Tan envelope | 600.00 |

<>

## OVERMYER'S EXPRESS (Unkn.)

Regional private mail(?) and parcel delivery company that operated in the Somerset, Ohio area.

### CORNER CARD & COVER



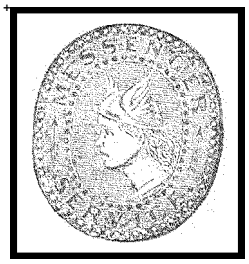

| 1867 Docket | Black Printing | Legal Size |
|---|---|---|
| OVYX-C1 | Tan envelope | 50.00 |

<>

### †MESSENGER SERVICE (Unkn.)

Local expedited letter delivery service that operated in New York City.

#### CUT SQUARES



"MESSENGER\SERVICE" is printed within the surrounding border.

| Year Unkn. | Imperf. | 31x35.5 mm |
|---|---|---|
| †MGSM-CS1 | Red/*Buff* | 50.00 |

**Image is similar to MGSM-CS1, *EXCEPT* printing is in white relief.**

Illustration is not available.

| Year Unkn. | Imperf. | 31x35.5 mm |
|---|---|---|
| †MGSM-CS2 | Red/*Buff* | 75.00 |

### †OAKLAND DISTRICT MESSENGER CO. (Unkn.)

Local expedited private mail delivery company that operated in the Oakland, Calif.(?), area.

#### LABELS




Red control number "**41**" is printed near left center. "Stamp" value is unknown.

| Year Unkn. | L. Roul. 10? | 33.5x53 mm |
|---|---|---|
| †OKDM-L1 | Purple/*Pink* | 20.00 |




Red control number "**9**" is printed above bicycle seat. "**SPECIAL**" (reading down) is overprinted at right. "Stamp" value is unknown.

| Year Unkn. | Roul. 12 | 33.5x53 mm |
|---|---|---|
| †OKDM-L2 | Red-black/*Rose* | 20.00 |

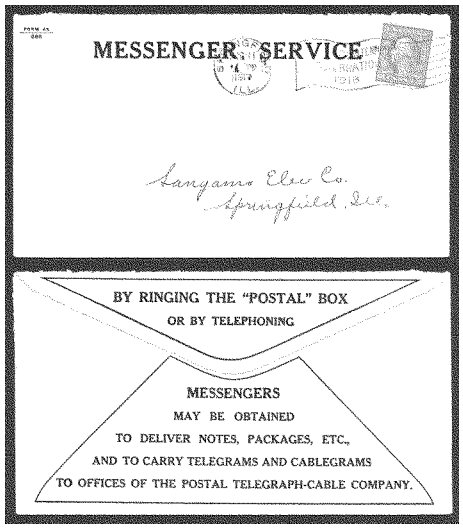
### [The] PARCEL EXPRESS and MESSENGER COMPANY

See listing in **Section II.**

### †POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE CO. (1887[AE]-19??)

Franchised(?) local expedited mail and parcel delivery service. This telegraph company is known to have operated nationwide and employed messengers in many cities.

#### COVER




"FORM 43 \586" is printed at UL on front cover.

| 1917 Postmark | Printed | |
|---|---|---|
| †PTCM-C1 | Black/*Brown* | 10.00 |

[August 1917 Springfield, Ill., postmarked cover]

### †RED BOY MESSENGER SERVICE (1909?–16?)

Local expedited parcel delivery company that operated in the Cleveland, Ohio area. Known to have been in business 1909–16.

#### LABEL




"©1914 BROWN & BIGELOW 100" is printed at bottom below design. Design is printed in black, brown, green, purple, and red colors.

| 1914 | Perf. 12.75 | 50.5x41 mm |
|---|---|---|
| †RBYM-L1 | Multicolors/*White* | 35.00 |

### ST. LOUIS EXPRESS and MESSENGER CO.

See listing in **Section III.**

### †SPECIAL ERRAND SERVICE (Unkn.)

Local expedited private mail and parcel delivery company that operated in the Miami, Florida area. May have been a post-1918 company..

#### LABEL

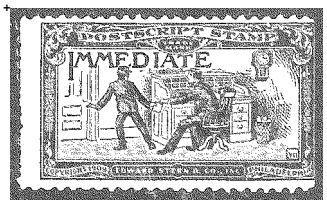



| Year Unkn. | Imperf. | Size Unkn. |
|---|---|---|
| †SESM-L1 | Black/*Buff* | 7.50 |

### †[EDWARD] STERN & CO., INC. (1871[R1]–1945[R1])

Edward Stern & Co., was a well known and respected printing and publishing establishment with facilities in Philadelphia, Penna. They are known to have issued Postscript Stamps early in the 20th Century that depicted various scenes and proverbs.

#### LABEL




"STAMP" value is unknown. A messenger about to leave an office is depicted. "VII" is printed in box near LR corner. "COPYRIGHT 1909" is printed in scroll at LL. "EDWARD STERN & CO., INC" appears in relief at bottom-center. "PHILADELPHIA" is printed in scroll at LR.

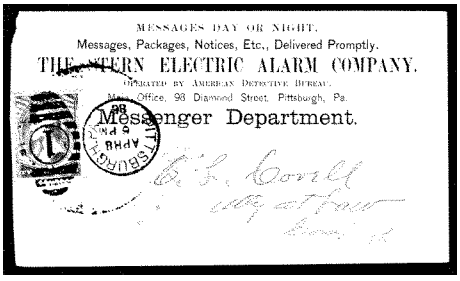
| 1909 | Perf. 12 | 36x21 mm |
|---|---|---|
| †STNM-L1 | Black, Brown, Red, Yellow/*White* | 20.00 |

Ref. 1: "Edward Stern & Co. - Complex Object." URL: http://lcpdams.librarycompany.org:8881/R/?func=dbin-jump-full&object_id=79128&local_base=GEN01. Accessed July 2017.

### †[THE] STERN ELECTRIC ALARM COMPANY (Unkn.)

Messenger Department. Local expedited private mail and parcel delivery company that operated in the Pittsburgh, Penna., area.

#### COVER




April 1886 Pittsburgh, PA postmark.

| 1886 Postmark | Printed | |
|---|---|---|
| †SEAM-C1 | Magenta/*Tan* | 10.00 |

## — C —

### CANADIAN EXPRESS CO. (1865–1921)

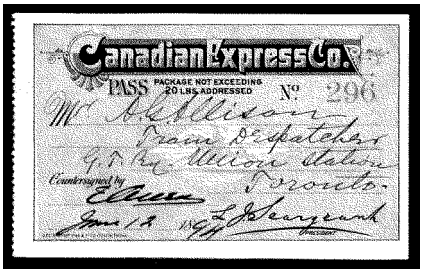
Regional private mail(?) and parcel express company that operated throughout Eastern Canada. This company operated mainly over the lines of the Grand Trunk Railway. Succeeded by the *Canadian National Express Co.*

Only the labels known used in Canada are listed here. Additional Canadian Express Company items are listed in **Section II (U.S. Express Labels & Stamps), Section III (N. A. Express Covers)** and **Section VII (Overseas Expresses).**

### FREE SHIPMENT

**COMPLIMENTARY PASS**

Given mostly to express, railroad and government officials to be used for free transportation of the recipient's personal packages over Canadian Express lines.




Red control number **296** is printed near UR corner. Facsimile signature of President 'L. J. Seargeant' is printed at LR.

**ca. 1894 Left V. Perf. 11 90.5x54 mm**
CDNX-F10 Black o/ Light Peach/*White* .....80.00
[Known with June 1894 m/s date]

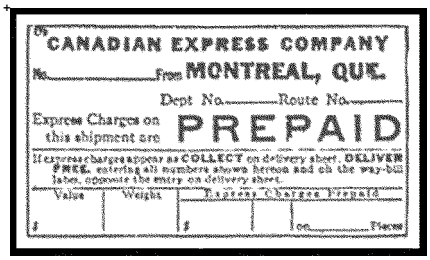
### LABELS

Many of these labels are known with other Canadian town city/names on them, some in different font styles.



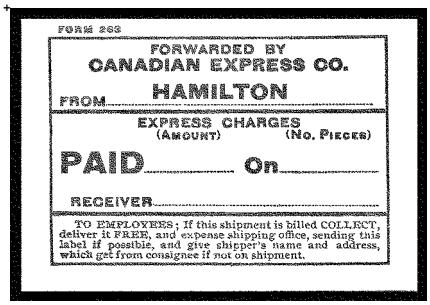

"U10" is printed at UL. Undefined printing on back.

**1912 Imperf. Size Unkn.**
+CDNX-L10-C Black/*White newsprint* .....20.00
[Label image was published in the *Montreal Gazette*, December 25, 1912. No actual white labels have been reported.]




"U9 is printed at UL. Undefined printing on back.

**1912 Imperf. Size Unkn.**
+CDNX-L12-C Black/*White newsprint* .....20.00
[Label image was published in the *Montreal Gazette*, December 25, 1912. No actual yellow labels have been reported.]




"**FORM 263**" is printed at UL above frame line.

**ca. 1906 Imperf. 72x48* mm**
+CDNX-L15-C Burgundy/*Buff* .....50.00
[Known used on May 1906 postmarked cover]
* Excluding **FORM 263** inscription.




**Year Unkn. Imperf. 39x36 mm***
+CDNX-L20-C Black/Orange .....40.00
* Thin rectangular frame.

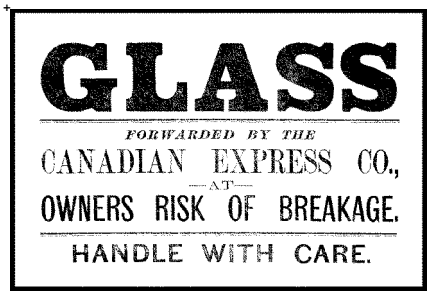



**ca. 1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm**
CDNX-L30 White/*Dark Blue* .....25.00
[Known used on March 1893 docketed cover]




"240" is printed near UL corner.

**Year Unkn. Imperf. 78.5x31+ mm**
+CDNX-L35-C Black/*Dark Red* .....*50.00
* Complete legible label.




**Year Unkn. Imperf. 128x81 mm**
+CDNX-L40 Black/*Light Green*.....50.00




**Year Unkn. Imperf. 62x42 mm**
+CDNX-L55-C Black/*Orange* .....70.00

***IDENTIFIER***

| CDNX- | CENTRAL ORNAMENT DESIGN |
|---|---|
| L55-C | Company. rded by Rail on E: |
| L60-C | Company. rded by Rail on E: |




**Year Unkn. Imperf. 62x42 mm**
CDNX-L60-C Black/*Orange* .....70.00




**Year Unkn. Imperf. 61x43 mm**
+CDNX-L61-C Black/*Orange* .....70.00




Vertical frame lines are crooked on the original label.

**Year Unkn. Imperf. 59x42 mm**
+CDNX-L65-C Black/*Orange* .....70.00

# SECTION VI
## REPUBLIC OF MEXICO EXPRESS LABELS

This Section presents the labels issued by private express companies operating in Mexico up to 1918. The same catalog acronyms are used for companies already introduced in the UNITED STATES Sections. The same catalog numbers are used for identical label/stamp designs that appear in both **Section II (U. S. Express Labels & Stamps)** and this Section (NOTE: a "-M" suffix is added in this Section to previously used catalog numbers when appropriate for Mexican identification).

Mexican express covers issued by Wells, Fargo & Co., are listed in **Section III (N. A. Express Covers)**.

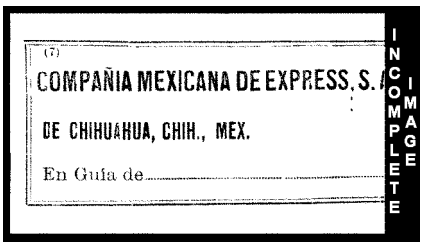
All valuations are in U.S. dollars.

## — C —

### COMPANIA MEXICANA DE EXPRESS, S. A. (1909[R1]–13?)

Private mail express company that operated over the Mexican railroads as a Wells Fargo subsidiary.

**LABEL**




Form number "(7)" is printed at UL.

| ca. 1911 | Imperf. | 88x38.5 mm |
|---|---|---|
| CMDX-L1 | Black/*Red* | *250.00 |

[Known used on August 1911 cover]
* Complete legible label.

Ref. 1: Chandler, Dr. R. J., ""Greening" Franks: Wells Fargo's Mexican Venture, 1859 to 1885," *Western Express*, June 2010, p. 91.

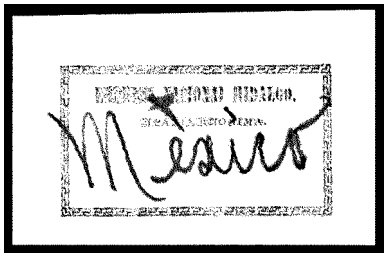
<>

## — E —

### EXPRESS NACIONAL HIDALGO (1891[R1]–1900[R3])

Private mail expresss company that operated over the railroads between Mexico City and Vera Cruz plus a southward extension to Puebla. Absorbed by *Express Interoceanico* in June 1900.

**LABEL**




Clear illustration is not available. "**EXPRESS NACIONAL HIDALGO**" is printed on top line.

| ca. 1892 | Imperf. | Size Unkn. |
|---|---|---|
| XHID-L1 | Black/*Red* | *125.00 |

[Known used on back of 1892 Hidalgo Express cover]
* Clear legible label.

Ref. 1: *Express Gazette*, January 10, 1892, p. 8.

Ref. 2: Dougan, S. W. "The Hidalgo Express Company," *The Heliograph*, #17 Winter 1991, pp 12–17.

Ref. 3: "Mexico/Prosperous Express Companies," *Monthly Bulletin of the Bureau of the American Republics*, June 1900, pp 1000–01.

<>

### EXPRESS INTEROCEANICO (1897[R1]–19??)

Private mail and parcel express company owned by the Interoceanico Railway. Its express service extended over railroad lines that extended across six states of the Mexican Republic.

The listed labels were probably also issued with other Mexican city/town names on them, some names possibly printed in different font styles.

**LABELS**




| Year Unkn. | Imperf. | 43x30 mm |
|---|---|---|
| XINT-L1 | Black/*Green* | 150.00 |




| Year Unkn. | Imperf. | 68x52 mm |
|---|---|---|
| XINT-L3 | Black/*Green* | 200.00 |

Ref. 1: "Compania del Ferro-Carril Interoceanico," *El Estada De Puebla*, December 1901, p. 66.

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### EXPRESS NACIONAL MEXICANO (189?–190?)

Private mail expresss company that operated via railroads over much of Southern Mexico. This company was formed as a partnership between Wells Fargo and the Mexican Government.

**LABEL**




"**x 62**" is printed at top.

| Year Unkn. | Imperf. | 35x30 mm |
|---|---|---|
| XNCM-L1 | ◊Black/*Yellow* | 150.00 |

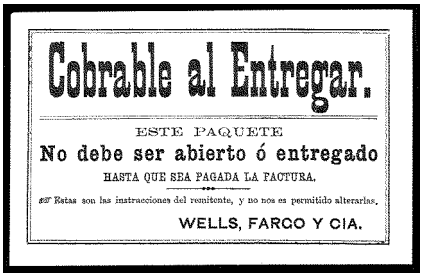
<>

### EXPRESS WELLS, FARGO Y CIA. (1885[R1]–1910[R1])

Private mail express company that was operated throughout Mexico by Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express (later Wells Fargo & Co.) from offices within Mexico. The official business name of this company was changed to Express Wells Fargo y Cia., (a.k.a. Wells Fargo & Co. Express) on August 1, 1898 (note the comma after 'Wells' is gone). See pg 344 for covers.

**LABELS**

**COLLECT ON DELIVERY**




| Year Unkn. | Imperf. | 108x74 mm |
|---|---|---|
| XWFC-L10 | Black/*Yellow* | 150.00 |




Clear illustration is not available.

| Year Unkn. | Imperf. | Size Unkn. |
|---|---|---|
| XWFC-L15 | Black/*Yellow* | *125.00 |

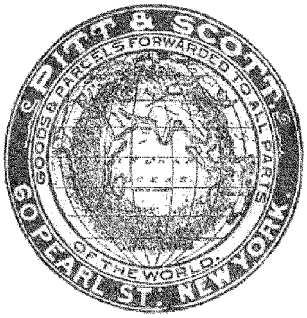
* Legible label.

## — P —

### PITT & SCOTT, INC./LTD. (1876–1918[AE]?)

Overseas foreign freight brokers and express carriers to all parts of the world from New York City and Boston.

#### CORNER CARDS & COVERS

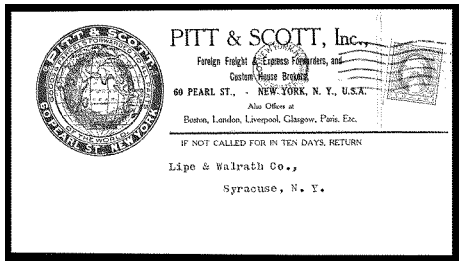



**Year Unkn.** **Printed** **48.5x49.5 mm**
PSLX-CC1 Dark Blue .....7.50




Note "Inc." in company name.

**Year Unkn.** **Printed**
PSLX-CI-1 Dark Blue .....Unkn.




**Year Unkn.**
PSLX-C1 White envelope .....35.00

***

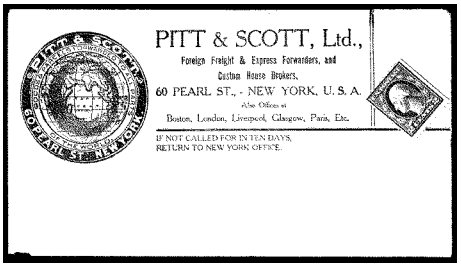
**Same image as PSLX-CC1.**

**ca. 1912** **Printed** **48.5x50 mm**
PSLX-CC2 Dark Blue .....7.50
[Known on September 1912 postmarked cover]




Note "Ltd." in company name. Second and third lines are printed in Gothic font.

**ca. 1912** **Printed**
PSLX-CI-2 Dark Blue .....Unkn.
[Known on September 1912 postmarked cover].




**1912 Postmark**
PSLX-C2 Light Blue envelope .....25.00

***

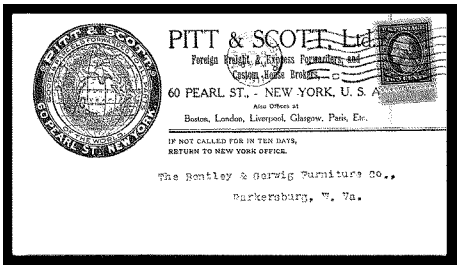
**Same image as PSLX-CC1.**

**ca. 1911** **Printed** **48.5x50 mm**
PSLX-CC3 Dark Blue .....7.50
[Known on April 1911 postmarked cover]



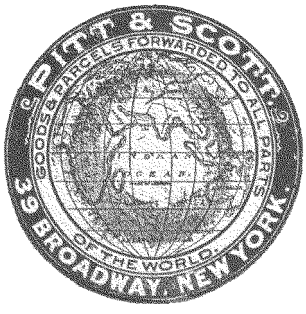

Note 'Ltd." in company name. Second and third lines are printed in serifed font.

**ca. 1911** **Printed**
PSLX-CI-3 Dark Blue .....Unkn.
[Known on April 1911 postmarked cover]




**1911 Postmark**
PSLX-C3 Light Blue envelope .....25.00

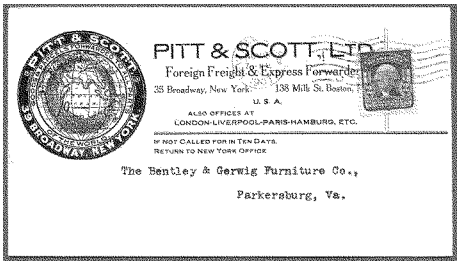
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**ca. 1907** **Printed** **48 mm dia.**
PSLX-CC5 Dark Blue .....7.50
[Known on November 1907 postmarked cover]




**ca. 1907** **Printed**
PSLX-CI-5 Dark Blue .....Unkn.
[Known on November 1907 postmarked cover]




**1907 Postmark**
PSLX-C5 Light Blue envelope .....25.00

***

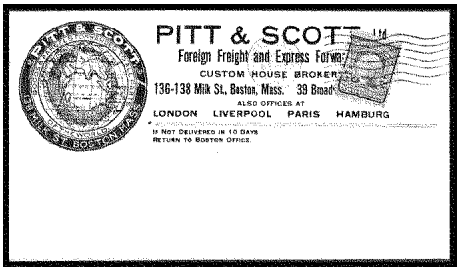



Map features are more cluttered than in PSLX-CC13 image.

**ca. 1907** **Printed** **Size Unkn.**
PSLX-CC8 Black .....10.00
[Known on December 1907 postmarked cover]




**ca. 1907** **Printed**
PSLX-CI-8 Black .....Unkn.
[Known on December 1907 postmarked cover]




**1907 Postmark**
PSLX-C8 Blue envelope .....25.00

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